

**Remarks/Arguments:**

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-4 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 6-8 remain in this application. Claim 5 has been amended. It is believed that no new matter has been added by way of any the amendments provided herein.

Examiner has requested clarifying amendments to claim 5, which have now been made where appropriate by amending the wording "the variation", "the axial direction", "the resistivity", "the current" and "the potential" to overcome the antecedent rejections.

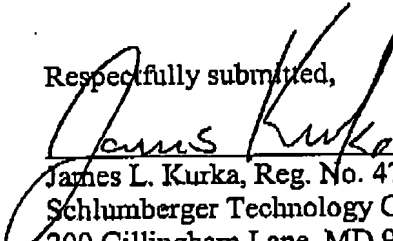
It is argued that the terms "first positions" and "second positions" are both clearly defined in the claims and require no further clarification. Specifically claim 5 defines "*the first positions comprising at least one central position (eb) between an upper end position (ea) and a lower end position (ec) along the axial direction*". Also, claim 5 defines "*for each local potential measurement made in the first positions, a potential measurement at two second positions is made simultaneously on each side of the first positions, a second position being at a distance from the closest end position of more than 1.5 times the average value of the spacing between consecutive positions to deduce a second profile for the variation of the resistivity along the axial direction.*" These terms are thus clearly defined in the claims and easily understandable from the description. Any further amendment risks making the claims more unclear.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Applicant believes this reply to be fully responsive to all outstanding issues and place this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action dated May 3, 2007 for which the two-month date for response is July 3, 2007. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-2183 (Reference Number 21.1046).

Date: 7/3/07

Respectfully submitted,

  
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